

## COAL TO DROP SOON, RETAILER PREDICTS

Dealers' State Association Discusses Abnormal Conditions in the Trade.

PRICE CUTTING DEPLORED

Evils of Fuel Situation to Be Adjusted Slowly, but to Satisfaction of All.

Coal is coming down. This was predicted yesterday afternoon by a coal merchant. Moreover, he made the prophecy out loud under his own name at a meeting of the New York State Coal Merchants Association at the Hotel Pennsylvania. What is perhaps the most unusual feature of the whole strange affair is that no one of the hundred or more retail coal dealers present threw any black diamonds at him or even contradicted him.

The courageous one was Arthur F. Rice, commissioner of the Coal Merchants Association of New York city.

"It is certain that, from whatever causes, prices are too high not only for the purse of the buyer but also for the good of the business, and the sooner we can get back to something like normal the better it will be for all concerned," he said. "The most optimistic man cannot expect to see this done at once, for there must be a rather gradual reduction in the cost of labor and materials in which the question of prices is largely involved; but that this readjustment will and must come is certain. There are indications that it is not far off."

### Must Return to Normal Prices.

"During the last two years everything has been based on abnormal conditions and we have gone to the question of getting back to a reasonable standard of measurement. With two jobs for every man labor has had its own way, and from that evil day when the United States Government allowed labor to hold a watch on legislators in the halls of Congress and to enforce its demands upon the coal business, the situation makes it impossible to transact business on a normal and reasonable basis. But the law of supply and demand is making itself felt and will eventually result in lower prices, with lower wages as a concurrent result."

Like every other speaker of the afternoon Mr. Rice, who is a retailer, urged organization of coal dealers as a remedy for many of the evils besetting them. Although a wholesaler, Harry T. Peters of Williams & Peters also urged cooperation.

"I think the idea of getting together is perfectly splendid," said Mr. Peters. "Perhaps we ought to have the doors shut first, but I say there's no question but what we should all get together. The public will get us on our knees, as a newspaper article said recently, and just because we don't get together, don't let the public bamboozle you by telling how the other fellow is cutting prices. They'll try it."

People have not got rich in the coal business, despite the rumors floating round. Yet the coal man is just about as popular as the undertaker. I don't know why. The good North American citizen simply doesn't like the coal man. He's a necessary evil and is treated as such. There's one compensation in the coal business, however. The styles don't change."

### Friction Relations Urged.

Competition and price cutting were most unfavorably commented upon by Edward Schmidt of Minnesota, president of the Long Island association.

"Our relations should be more fraternal," he declared. "We should resolve that from this day on we shall no longer be competitors. Let's look at the situation from the standpoint that we have a duty to supply the community with coal. Let's be coworkers with the other dealer. It behooves every dealer to get acquainted with other dealers serving his territory. Let him be more fraternal. Drop into the other fellow's office. You needn't talk about prices—talk about the world league if you want to, but get acquainted with him."

"That's the secret of success. Those of us who have discovered it have been trying to drum it into other dealers' heads. Wherever in the State you find dealers on friendly terms you'll find business conditions best."

Other speakers who dwelt on cooperation were H. H. Paul of New Rochelle and G. W. P. Woodside, executive secretary of the State organization. Resolutions denouncing proposed amendments extending the power of the workmen's compensation law and creating State health insurance were denounced as socialistic and confiscatory.

The afternoon session was presided over by Rudolph Reimer, Jr., formerly chairman of the Mayor's committee on Fuel and vice-president of the Brooklyn Coal Exchange. At the morning session Charles B. Staats, president of the State association, presided, and M. N. Clement, general manager, Coal Merchants Mutual Insurance Company, made the principal address.

## Evan Burrows Fontaine



In her South Sea Island dance for the smoke fund at the Hotel Pennsylvania to-night.

## BIG BENEFIT PARTY FOR FUND TO-NIGHT

Many Well Known Entertainers to Be on Programme at Hotel Pennsylvania.

Gall-Curel and Caruso will be heard at the party given to THE SUN Tobacco Fund by the Hotel Pennsylvania to-night. These great artists have presented three of their favorite records, which will be played and afterward sold for the benefit of the American soldiers in the Army of Occupation who want smokes. These great singers have offered to autograph these records for the purchasers as a testimonial of their deep interest in the fund.

Sophie Tucker will be present in person and will sing her favorite songs. Between songs at Helen Weber's she will jump into a taxicab and crowd into it her own little group of jazz kings, which down to the Pennsylvania, sing for the fund and hurry back. This is not so easy as it reads, and if it were not for her interest in the smoke fund, she would not undertake it. Frequently she sells songs for the fund to her own audience, and in the next list of new contributions to appear will be a check listed which a soldier gave Miss Tucker for singing "A Good Man Goes Wrong."

### Valuable Dog Helps Fund.

One of the features at the auction sale will be the six months old Boston terrier which is to be sold for the fund's benefit. The dog is a true aristocrat. It is a dark brindie, with white markings, and the pride of the Ravenroyd Kennel, whose proprietor, Fred Mehl, presented it to THE SUN Tobacco Fund. Sired by Ravenroyd Rival, A. K. C. 220548, his dam was Ravenroyd Rustle, A. K. C. 239479, prize winner in the Madison Square Garden show of 1918.

Two artists who volunteered at the eleventh hour because they had not heard of the party are Jane Gray and Jimmy Byler from the "Midnight Frolic." They will appear in the Pennsylvania ball before going to the New Amsterdam Roof. Even Burrows Fontaine will come after her performance to dance her South Sea Island number.

The pretty girls who will sell flowers and cigarettes donated to the smoke fund, under the chaperonage of Mrs. Edith Kingsley, are the Misses Diantha Patten, Jane Kerley, Mattie Hill and Minerva Sewell.

Theodore E. Hedlund of the Boston band, recently in the service, will fly from Boston to-day, and expects to arrive in time to join the smoke fund dinner party. He will tell the guests of his experiences in the air over the German front. Lieut. Pat O'Brien of the Royal Flying Corps will relate the exciting story of the way he outwitted the German pilot, Capt. Ernest G. O'Dell will give a word picture of the present conditions surrounding our soldiers on the Rhine front.

### Many Well Known Singers.

A real treat is in store in the experience of the Russian violin virtuoso Breeskin, and in the singing of Christine Schutz, Blanche Duffield, Orville Harrod, Awarito Parrot, Ida V. Enders and Kathryn Lee. Among the other entertainers will be Louise Dresser and her partner, Jack Gardner; George White and his beauty chorus; Gus Edwards and his prohibition chorus and George T. Kelling, the clever cartoonist.

The operating president and manager of the hotel, Roy Carruthers, has done everything in his power to help THE SUN Tobacco Fund party. Everybody concerned, in fact, is doing his bit. Reservations may be made by telephoning to Knickerbocker 5000.

Mrs. Enders, the contralto, who will help the party, already has given two recitals for the fund. She has received many cards from the soldiers as her reward. A recent one comes from Private

## FRENCH REFUGEES NEED AMERICA'S AID

Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt Appeals for Contributions to Rebuild Ruined Homes.

EVEN \$50 WILL DO MUCH

Immediate Response Will Relieve Misery of Thousands Who Lost All.

French peasants whose humble homes were blasted by war and who since have been forced to take refuge wherever they could find it soon will sit before restored fireplaces and the lights of many rebuilt homes will fall upon the names of American benefactors who supplied the funds which made the new cottages possible if the people of the United States respond to the urgent appeal sent out yesterday by Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt on the eve of her return to France to aid in the work of rehabilitation.

Mrs. Vanderbilt's plea is prompted by a message from Mme. de Billy, wife of the French Deputy High Commissioner, telling of the measures adopted by the French society "Secours d'Urgence" to provide the immediate necessities of refugees to which Americans are being asked to contribute. Mrs. Vanderbilt said yesterday:

"Before returning to France to work, as I intend to do shortly, I want to bring before the public a situation which has been brought before me."

### Look to America to Help.

"I am sure the majority of Americans feel to-day that though the war may be over the day has not come and some of us believe it will never come again—thank God—for every one to slink back into his own limited horizon of personal pursuits, but that now more than ever we realize how we all are part of one another, of one another's joys or sorrows, and that a larger comprehension is both the basis and the aim of individual lives as well as of international politics."

"To-day the world looks to us—America—for help, and there are many who believe in giving that help, for we are, first of all, helping ourselves, and that is why I feel that in answering the call that has come to me to-day, the call of immediate and urgent distress, I am returning both a crying need on one part and an ardent wish on the other."

"While governments and humanitarian associations are elaborating schemes of coordinated action for relief all over the world time passes. We are now in the day of crisis and people, men returning from the trenches to find the land so many gave their lives to have ruined for generations, women who strove to save the future in saving the children—children whose lives are frail for having been through the most formidable of tempests; all these human creatures are going through hours of untold, unrealizable misery and distress. Yet their courage is not to be broken, they lose no time in returning and trying to make a new start."

### Urgent Appeals From France.

"Conditions since the signing of the armistice have been such that it seems impossible for those who have not seen the situation with their own eyes to understand it. In their report the German armies wilfully destroyed all railroad bridges, tracks, canals, roads and carried away all industrial equipment. Everything has to be transported by trucks and railways are gradually being rebuilt. Until some general plan of action is decided upon utilizing all efforts (I have assurance this shall be soon) an urgent appeal for immediate relief has come to me through Mme. de Billy, wife of the French Deputy High Commissioner, who has received messages from

France, which she showed me, and among them a telegram from the society of the Secours d'Urgence. "This is one of the societies which have been doing reconstruction work for two years and to which both our Red Cross and private energies have often been turned."

"Contributions of \$50 (250 francs) would permit furnishing simply but sufficiently these small houses."

"The official figures state that about 450,000 homes have been destroyed and between \$0.00 and 1,000,000 people have become refugees."

"A brass plate bearing the name of the donor would be placed over each of these newly erected hearths. Thus not only would the visible link between the two be maintained, but between the winter's evening, the flicker of the flames suddenly lighting up that plate and the name written on it, the thoughts of grateful hearts clustered around the fire will wander across space to that once happier home now so closely united to their own, and thus perhaps the way of good will, surmounting all differences will go far to carry along the peace of the world and quench the fires of destruction and envy ever ready to burst forth."

"May this message and appeal which I have accepted to put before the American public find the way to many a heart. All those who wish to answer it should, bearing in mind the exact amounts corresponding to an individual family, send their subscriptions to Mme. de Billy, care Foreign Department, Guaranty Trust Company, 140 Broadway, New York."

"These sums will at once be forwarded to the 'Secours d'Urgence' by Mme. de Billy, who will undertake to see that the donors receive direct news of these homes which they will have thus rebuilt."

## ON SENATE BILL 4785

It's a big job—and a holy one. Just the kind of a job for a perfect sinner.

The editor of the Bulletin likes it. If he didn't, nobody could induce him to try to make good at it.

Only a perfect sinner can thoroughly and honestly understand and get into the depths of the inhumanity of the Turk, and his late Master,—the Hun.

We call the Turk's Master a Hun,—and a Hun who knew what he was doing. We call him a Hun and heartily and earnestly and honestly make a distinction between a Hun and those deluded Germans (in Germany) who refuse even now to understand the mind of America.

The distinction is the difference between a peoples or a nation that consult God Almighty before doing extraordinary things and a peoples or a nation deceived by a group of pirates which underwrote and copyrighted His Name for the commission of crime.

It was in this fashion, this underwrote and copyrighted employment of the Name of God, that the Turk, urged on by the Master Pirates, killed instantly or starved to death above a million harmless, defenseless Armenians, men, women and children.

It was in this underwrote and copyrighted employment of His Name that the Turk, urged on by the Master Pirates, drove into exile nearly four millions of human souls, Armenians, Syrians, Persians, Greeks,—Christian and Jew.

It was in this underwrote and copyrighted employment of His Name that the Turk left as a heritage to you and to me 400,000 orphaned children,—little boys and girls who cannot turn to this man and say, "You are my father" or to this woman, "You are my mother."

Do you wonder, then, my readers, that your country by an Act of Congress (SENATE BILL 4785) delegated to a group of citizens, among them, Cleveland H. Dodge, James L. Barton, Henry Morgenthau, Samuel T. Dutton, Elihu Root, Cardinal Gibbons, Bishop Greer, Rabbi Wise, Alexander J. Hemphill, William H. Taft, Myron T. Herrick, Arthur Curtiss James, John R. Mott, Oscar S. Straus and Charles Evans Hughes, the solemn duty of feeding, clothing, housing, educating and starting on a new life, and in the name of the one true God of our Fathers, the survivors of these horrors?

Do you wonder, then, my readers, that New York is asked to subscribe \$6,000,000 to help these men make good for God, their country and humanity?

Will help them accomplish the things they are expected to accomplish under Senate Bill 4785.

## ONE WAY OF DOING IT NOW

MR. CLEVELAND H. DODGE, TREASURER ARMENIAN AND SYRIAN RELIEF COMMITTEE, NO. 1 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY.

Dear Mr. Dodge:

I am very glad, indeed, to make this little offering in the name of God and His Charity for the relief of the Armenians, Syrians and Persians. Please send me literature.

Yours for

"They Shall Not Perish"

Name .....

Address .....

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